IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020]   FIG. 6 is a flow diagram of exemplary operations for ~~retrieving~~ modifying annotations for a selected portion of data according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035]   However, as an annotated selection may span hundreds of cells, and several annotations may be associated with selection, this conventional description may require too much storage. Further, as the annotation database 139 is often located in a storage device or server accessed via a network connection, the size of this conventional description 154_A may undesirably consume too much bandwidth. Embodiments of the present invention, however, provide alternative descriptions of data selections that require less descriptive data and, therefore, require less memory and CPU overhead for processing (fewer records to process, consume less storage space, and consume less network bandwidth).

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038]   As illustrated in FIG. 2C, while being more storage efficient than the conventional description 154_A, the edge definitions 154_B and 154_C (collectively edge definitions 154) still allow for modifications to the collection of data 122, without requiring modifications to the edge definitions themselves. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 2C, even after the insertion of a new row (shown as row 5.5) and/or the insertion of a new column (shown as column B'), the edge definitions 154 accurately describe the

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original data selection 124 (i.e., the edge definitions 154 do not refer to either row 5.5 or column B'). This may be of advantage, for example, if the annotation is valid only with respect to the original annotated data selection 124. However, as will be described in greater detail below (with reference to FIGs. 6 and 7), for some embodiments, a user may be provided the option to update an edge definition 154, for example, in the event that an annotation also applies to an annotated data ~~selection , as~~ selection, as modified.

Please replace paragraph [0050] with the following amended paragraph:

[0050] For example, the annotation system 130 may present the user with a graphical user interface (GUI) screen, such as the GUI screen 700 shown in FIG. 7. As illustrated, the GUI screen 700 may provide the user with an indication of the modification to the annotated data selection. The user may also be provided with the option to view the associated annotation, via a View Annotation button 702, for example to determine if the annotation applies to a newly inserted row or column or if the annotation is still valid after the deletion of a row or column. The user may also be provided a set of radio buttons allowing the user to choose one of a predefined set of operations. For example, as shown, the user may choose to update the edge definition to reflect the modification (e.g., if the annotation applies to the data selection, as modified), maintain the current edge definition and annotation (e.g., if the annotation does not apply to inserted rows/or columns), edit the annotation to reflect the modification (e.g., via a separate annotation generation GUI), or delete the annotation (e.g., if the annotation is not valid after the modification). For some embodiments, a user may be provided with similar options upon detecting a change to actual data within a selection of data (e.g., changes to actual data values may affect the validity of an annotation).

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